

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

MARCH 1943

Vol. 88, No. 3



Copy 1



AMERICA AT HER BEST (see page 35)

TRANSLATION

Stand by the Bible— the Christian, the American Way



THIS year marks the fifth appearance of the "Bible stickers," as many of our friends have come to call them. It has been gratifying to receive the increasing number of inquiries asking for the new seal when it is ready; thus proving that these little seals are actually performing the double purpose for which they were originally created: providing funds for the distribution of the Scriptures, and serving as a means of calling the attention of others to the importance of the Bible in individual and national life.

Certainly, these seals have proved of tremendous value in widening the Society's circle of supporters. Each year has shown a substantial increase over the year before, both in number of contributors and in amounts received. For 1942 the seal campaign produced \$70,000 for the general work of the Society and an additional \$13,000 for the War Emergency Fund.

It is hoped that this year there will be an even greater response. The seals will be mailed to seal contributors between the middle of February and the first of March. They are printed in three colors on a white background, and feature the slogan "Stand by the Bible—the Christian, the American Way." The design illustrates the open Bible surrounded by

the national colors, and with an honor guard of a soldier, sailor, and marine.

In a sense, too, these service men symbolize the vast effort which the Society is making to supply with Testaments as many as possible of these young men who are entering our armed forces.

Professor Emeritus William Lyon Phelps of Yale, a Vice President of the Society, again signs the letter of appeal which accompanies the seals, and which reads as follows:

"Thank God for your Testament, Son." Such were the words of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker to a fellow castaway on a liferaft adrift at sea for over twenty days.

He was only giving voice to the common experience of hundreds of thousands of men and women in time of great crisis. That book has the answer to humanity's severest problems. It alone speaks a message of hope and good courage to men of all times and of all races.

Today is no exception. From drifting liferafts, from the foxholes of Bataan, from prison camps in many lands, from hunger-pinched refugees, comes the same word, "Thank God for the Bible."

It is our glad privilege as Christian Americans to keep that good news speeding on its way. Now, above all other times, the supply must be kept flowing.

One dollar will provide New Testaments to six of our young men in the armed forces.

Two dollars will make it possible to give St. John's comforting Gospel to more than one hundred homeless refugees.

Five dollars will put 10 Bibles into some prison camp where the dull, drab routine of life behind barbed wire tries men's souls to the limit.

Your gift and your use of the enclosed Bible seals will add your resources to those of thousands of other Christians in forwarding the Scripture distribution program of your American Bible Society. For five years now these little stamps have served the double purpose of calling attention to America's own need for the Bible, and of providing funds for distributing it all over the world.

Your offering will bring its message to those who are eagerly seeking it now.

The pages of the RECORD must constantly make clear the necessity of not only maintaining, but of enlarging the funds made available to the Society in its essential program during these critical days. All readers of the RECORD are urged to support the current seal campaign.

You may order them now at one dollar per sheet by writing to the Society, Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Volume 88

March 1943

Number 3

America at Her Best

BETTER thank God for your Testament, Son. You see now what faith can do for you," said Capt. E. V. Rickenbacker to Corporal Bartek as they were finally put ashore by the rescue squad which had found them adrift on the Pacific after twenty-one days. The story of this rescue is too well known to need any recital here. It is the very prominence given to the daily practice of prayer and Bible reading on that raft that prompts this comment. The American Bible Society has presented to Captain Rickenbacker a suitably inscribed Bible as a token of its gratitude for the effectiveness of his testimony to the value of Bible reading. Unquestionably, it has stimulated the practice in many homes and by many individuals who have seldom, if ever, read the Bible with any regularity.

A Bible-reading America is America at her best. Any moving testimony to the value of regular reading of God's Word is an act of loyalty unsurpassed. It was a Bible-reading people who won the war of the Revolution against enormous odds. It was a man actuated by the plain teachings of the Bible who led the nation through the perilous days of the war between the states. Not only a glorious victory at arms, but a lasting peace for the nations can be won, if America turns whole-heartedly to the Bible in these testing times.

Corp. John Bartek, who produced the Bible on the raft with Captain Rickenbacker, speaking at a party for service men in Buffalo, N. Y., given on Christmas day, said, "I took out my Bible, reading from it at random. Some of the parts I read seemed to fit exactly our predicament. I don't remember what they were now, but I knew then that something was turning the pages to some very enlight-

ening passages. . . . Without the Bible we might have given up. But every so often we'd run across a passage that would force hope back into us like a dry sponge in a basin of water.

"Maybe people will understand why I don't feel maudlin when I say I believe in God now more than ever before. Lieutenant Whittaker was a non-believer until he began reading the Bible out there in the middle of the Pacific. He now attends services."

Countless testimonies have, through all the years, brought out this fact about the Bible, that even in inexperienced hands it yields of its saving light; but nevertheless this is not Bible reading at its best. The study of the Bible under competent guidance makes its resources limitless.

It imparts to the reader the promised power of God's love and grace to a degree that makes him invincible under any circumstances. The Apostle Paul testifies to this when he declares triumphantly, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Let us have, then, in wartime America an ordered knowledge of the Bible in every home. Let parents study its pages and teach its truths to their children.

Let Bible school teachers search the Scriptures with greater earnestness, and impart their precepts with more zeal. Let preachers preach more directly the Bible's simple, profoundly practical truths.

The American Bible Society will gladly furnish to any who ask, leaflets designed to help in the personal use of the Bible, and in its use in the home and in the church school; for the Society seeks to do its part to see present-day America become "America at Her Best."

A Prayer for Those Who Teach the Bible

by DAVID K. BARNWELL

SPIRIT Divine, who art Father and Teacher of our human spirits, we lift up our intercessions for all who teach thy Word. By home altars, in Christian classrooms, from pulpits or on street corners, in places of high learning or in humble village markets, wherever men share with others the truths of the Living Book, do Thou inspire and illumine the teaching. Give to our minds understanding and spaciousness; give to our hearts warmth and love; give to our lips felicity and persuasiveness. Let all our interpretation of the age-old wisdom first be made vital in our own living experience, and then help us to transmit with faithfulness, courage, and shining gladness the truths we find. Through Him who was the Word made alive, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

When the Hour Comes

by Eric M. North

WITH wise forethought the government of our country is not only prosecuting the war by the supply of war materials to our armed forces; it is also, through "lend-lease," providing our allied nations with materials essential for their defense and for ours. But it is doing more than that. It is already supplying impoverished civilians in restored areas—such as North Africa—with the food and clothing of which they have been so bitterly deprived. And it is preparing to extend such relief to each area freed from the Axis blight.

The task of the American Bible Society, acting in behalf of our American churches in these days of tremendous need and opportunity, is strikingly parallel in a quite different sphere. It is striving first of all to see that no American soldier or sailor, whether in the Army, the Navy, the Air Forces, the Marines, the Coast Guard, the Waves, the Waacs, the Merchant Marine, who wishes a New Testament shall fail to have it. By the end of January more than 1,618,000 Testaments had gone out from the Society to chaplains and others. Chaplains in Alaska, Iceland, North Africa, Great Britain, the South Seas, as well as in all parts of the United States, have written their enthusiastic thanks and asked for more (see "The Men Are Reading It," page 38). Moreover, there is increase rather than diminution in the Society's efforts to bring the Scriptures to American civilians, and to keep supplied American missions at home and abroad.

The second task, like the government's, is to keep our allies supplied. The record shows over the last two years and a half more than \$57,225 expended either in direct aid to the British, the Netherlands, and the French Bible Societies, or in supplying to others Scriptures which those Societies would normally have supplied. Europe, Africa, the East Indies, have been the scenes of this effort. Even now Norwegian Bibles and Testaments are being printed in behalf of the Norwegian Bible Society—though unknown to its officers in harassed Norway. Similarly in Switzerland, with funds supplied by the Society, printing is going on in several European languages for the supply of those beleaguered but still valiant churches and people who, though swept over by tyranny, still hold their first allegiance to God. No possible measure that will aid these allies of Christ's kingdom can be neglected. This applies equally to those millions behind barbed wire, whether Axis or Allied, to whom the possession of the Book of Life may mean deep sustenance to the heart or a discovery of a better life and a true Leader.

While these two efforts must be maintained at a maximum, there is rising before the Society a third task of far greater proportion—the resupply of the Bible to every country and people who have been cut off from it by the war. In the turbulence and turmoil thousands upon thousands of copies have been lost or destroyed. Among the larger populations where the church is established, there is a steady normal demand which may, by the end of the war, have been unsupplied for many months. In 1941 the Norwegian Bible Society circulated 90,000 copies; in 1942 they were entirely cut off from paper supply. In Germany the normal issues were several hundred thousand copies a year; in 1943 printing of the Bible is reported to have been prohibited. The printing that can be done in Switzerland is restricted to a few tens of thousands of copies. Remember that every language in Europe requires annually its hundreds or its hundreds of thousands of copies, and then reckon that now only in Sweden, Finland, and Holland does the supply approximate normal. Reckon now that all through this period the interest in the Bible has been rising. Hundreds of thousands of people, seeking comfort and power to endure, have begun to return to what they once knew or have seen someone else use. The requirement of Bibles and Testaments for Europe alone for the first postwar year or so will number millions.

Impoverished Europe can pay for only a part of these millions of Scriptures. And the limited paper supplies and the paralysis of industry will require that large quantities be printed outside of Europe—in America.

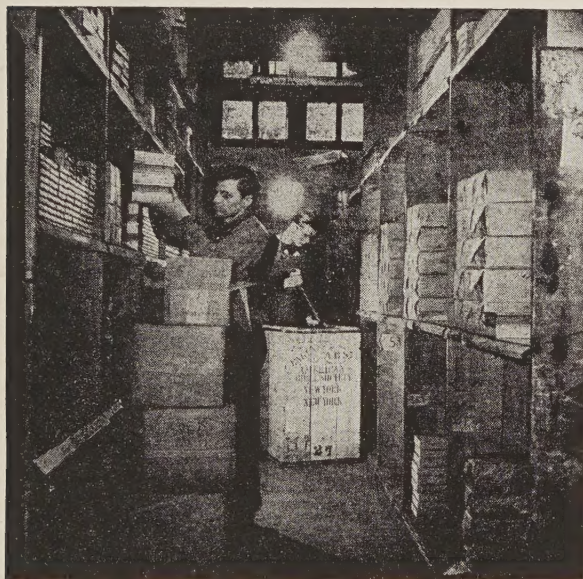
To these European needs must be added those of scores of languages in the Far East and Africa, where the limitations of paper supply in Britain and of transportation from Britain and America have held up great numbers of Scriptures needed for rapidly growing churches. Some day, occupied China, the Philippines, Thailand, the Netherlands Indies, will reopen with accumulated needs. For some of these, partial reserves of unspent appropriations have been established.

The postwar requirements as a whole, however, already seem staggering. It is too early to make estimates and issue plans, though the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society are already giving joint study to the matter. God grant that, when the hour comes, our faith will not be found lacking to undertake that vast task, essential to the making of a better world, which only the Bible lovers can achieve.

The Arsenal of Christianity

by Gilbert Darlington

IN 1942 the American Bible Society issued more copies of the Holy Scriptures from its Bible House in New York than in any previous year. Total issues of 8,232,064 (including 1,199 Concordances) were 25 percent greater than in 1941, and over 150 percent greater than in 1935. As in 1860-64, during the Civil War, and again in 1917-1918, the



Shipping Bibles from the New York Depository

issues of Army and Navy Testaments increased more than those of whole Bibles—tremendously this time to 425 percent over the issues of 1935. Not since 1918 has the Society issued so many Testaments. The year 1943 should show a further large increase, because, up to the present, it has not been possible to produce books enough to meet the constantly expanding demand. Over 4,100,000 Testaments for the armed

forces have been ordered, but only about one half of these have so far been produced.

The next largest increase was in Gospel portions. In 1942 there was an increase of 15 percent, or 805,644 copies, over the production of 1941, and 128 percent over that of 1935. Most of this increase was in Portuguese and Spanish Gospels for Latin America. It is expected that these increases will continue during 1943, since Brazil and Mexico anticipate the use of well over 600,000 Gospels each.

Of the 110,000 Spanish Bibles in three different editions that were printed in 1941, almost all had been shipped from the Bible House in 1942; so that an additional 140,000 Spanish Bibles were ordered late in 1942, to be ready during the first quarter of 1943. This is just one important example of the additional demands that the war has brought to your American Bible Society; for, before the war, these Spanish Bibles were all printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society in England.

Because of the war, it has also been necessary to produce the Japanese New Testament and Gospels; the Ancient Greek New Testament, with the critical apparatus of Dr. Eberhard Nestle in the 1936 edition; also Greek and Russian Gospels in the one-cent series; and the balance of the whole New Testament in Spanish one-cent portions. Special editions of the New Testament for the Canadian Army, Navy, and Air Force were published for the British and Foreign Bible Society in Canada; and also a special edition of 50,000 English Bibles. All of these were in addition to the Society's regular work of translation, publication, and distribution of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world. Truly, 1942 was a monumental year. The American Bible Society is becoming more and more the arsenal of Christianity from which to supply in ever-increasing quantities "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Bible House Production

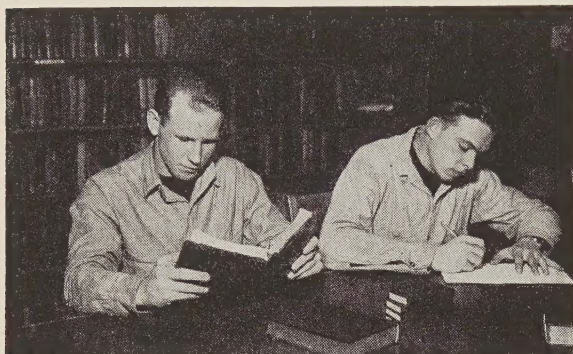
FOR those who like statistics—the Story in Figures. The percentages in the bottom row show the increases in the 1942 figures over those of 1935. These production figures should not be confused with reports of Scripture distribu-

tion. It is one thing to produce a book, and quite another to place it effectively in the hands of one who needs it. It is anticipated that the figures for distribution in the United States for 1942 will be one of the largest on record.

	Bibles	Testaments	Portions	Blind	Concordances	Total
1942	332,884	1,730,480	6,158,577	8,924	1,199	8,232,064
1941	337,924	887,728	5,352,932	6,696	1,375	6,586,655
1940	279,092	465,394	4,109,763	6,096	1,130	4,861,475
1935	223,413	329,856	2,721,915	3,851	1,179	3,280,214
Almost	50 %	425 %	128 %	132 %		151 %

The Men Are Reading It

AMONG the questions most frequently asked regarding the distribution of New Testaments to men in the nation's services is, "Are the books really read?" The best answer to this question is the testimony of the chaplains through whom the books are distributed. From these letters, which



Sailors at the Navy Pier, Chicago, read the Bible and write home about it

A SOLDIER in a camp in Oregon speaks for thousands when he writes: "I was recently inducted into our Army, and one of the first things I received was a pocket New Testament, which my chaplain told me was a gift of the American Bible Society. This note is to say 'Thank you,' and to tell you that I've seen in the barracks many of these Testaments being read. Your expense in giving these Testaments is doing us boys a lot of good. We appreciate them."

come in a constant stream to the Bible House, we have here chosen a few which are not exceptional, but typical.

RECORD readers will recall that, last year, there came a request from Australia for 25,000 Testaments for the Allied Air Forces stationed there. It was arranged to have these shipped in installments of 5,000. Among recent letters came one from Chaplain J. E. Kinney reporting the safe arrival of the first consignment. He wrote:

A large part of the Testaments will go direct to the Services of Supply chaplain—a job which I formerly held. However, the first thousands will go to the airmen in the battle areas.

There is no need to tell you how much the boys appreciate these gifts and use them too. We are all immensely grateful to those who make all this possible.

Most of the letters come from the camps here at home. A chaplain stationed in a camp in South Carolina writes:—

This is an Infantry replacement center, and the cycle of training in this battalion extends only over a few weeks' period. With the arrival of the men in each cycle we are faced with the same demand for Testaments; and so it is a pleasure to know that I will be able to secure them from you. Could you please send me five hundred?

I hope you won't think I am extravagant in my request, but I am really in need of the New Testaments and the pulpit Bible, and will need many more of the New Testaments in days to come.

Let me commend you on your great work in supplying the men in the armed forces with the Scriptures. They take them, and, furthermore, they use them. *I have the feeling that, when this war is over, we will have more people, especially men, who know something about the New Testament than we ever had before at any time in this country.*

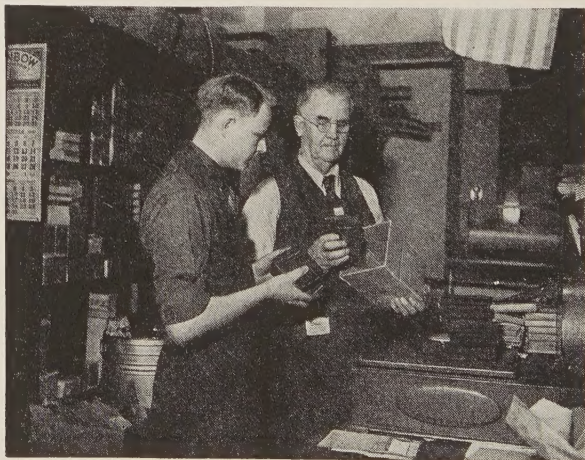
A chaplain at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station writes enthusiastically:—

My work here is challenging and most interesting. We work long, hard hours, but I would not change places with anyone. Yesterday, after having a service of 900 men, followed by one of 1,400 men, I gave out several hundred New Testaments. We do not give New Testaments indiscriminately, but rather have the men come and ask for them, and make a point of letting them know the value and meaning of our Sacred Book. It is one thing a sailor may carry as part of his gear.

I had a sailor in my office, last week, who had just returned from one of the battle zones. He said that in the darkest hour, sailors found their greatest consolation and comfort in reading their Bible.

Still another chaplain writes from South Carolina:—

Would appreciate it very much if you could furnish me with another supply of these fine Testaments. This time



*Packing Testaments for fighting men
Chicago Depository*

I would ask that a larger supply be sent, several hundred copies. Since the men like them so well, I am sure that several hundreds could be disposed of easily.

A Navy chaplain in Rhode Island writes:—

I should like 1,000 Testaments, if you can send them, as soon as possible. I distribute on the average of 150 copies per week. This is not indiscriminate distribution. I merely announce at my service that men may obtain a copy by calling at my office. The foregoing is the result.

From an Air Corps chaplain in Washington State comes this paragraph:—

Just a word to ask you to please send me one thousand copies of the Soldier's New Testament, Aviation edition. Since I have been in the Army Air Forces, I have distributed hundreds of copies of these Testaments to the men in the services, and they appreciate them more than words can tell. Besides those I have made a point to give to the men, many others have come to me with requests

ON the day, late in January, when this article was being prepared for the press, the orders that came to the Bible House called for 21,800 Testaments for our fighting men. The highest figure of daily production by the Society's printers is about 12,000 books. The average daily output since June 1942 has been a little above 5,000—reason enough for delays in delivery to many of the camps and posts.

for them. You will never know the good you have done and are doing in your wonderful work among the men of the armed forces of the country.

An Army chaplain in North Carolina states his problem in these words:—

I sincerely appreciate your tender of 1,000 pocket New Testaments, which should soon reach us. You may be surprised to learn that I shall have literally to parcel these out, and that they will without doubt reach only a minimum fraction of the military personnel at Fort Bragg who are desiring copies of the New Testament.

An Army chaplain in Kentucky writes:—

I am writing this letter as our monthly request for five thousand copies of the New Testament.

We truly appreciate your offer to send us five thousand copies a month if we put in the request for them. It is very difficult for us to keep a supply of New Testaments on hand, and your generous offer has been exceedingly helpful:

A Navy chaplain in Louisiana writes:—

I thank you greatly for the 1,000 New Testaments which arrived a week ago. I should like to be put down on your list for an additional 1,000 New Testaments at your very earliest convenience. The demand here is greater than the supply, and, if you can supply me these New Testaments, I can guarantee you that a thousand men will profit from them.

I certainly appreciate all that you are doing for me and for the Navy.

WNEW Broadcasts

by Dorothea Hanna

EVEN if you do not live in the New York metropolitan area where you could hear the American Bible Society's local radio program on Station WNEW at 8:35 each Sunday morning, you will be interested, nevertheless, to see the accompanying picture of these young men who have been among the



many speakers on these programs who recommended the reading and study of the Word of God, and the belief in it. Ensign R. King, U.S.N.R. (Johnson City, Tennessee), a graduate of Davidson College, is seen in the right foreground presenting the Society's especially designed Navy New Testament to midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School located on the Columbia University campus in New York City. From left to right are Midshipmen P. M. Lowe (Willard, Utah), A. Seaholm (Cleveland, Ohio), and C. J. Blocher (Chicago, Illinois),—all graduates of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois—who conducted the broadcasts in January of this year. Midshipman Seaholm plans to enter the ministry after the war.

The Society has been sponsoring this radio program now for over a year. Speakers have been drawn from various walks of life. Among those who have recently been in charge of the broadcasts are Mr. Sterling S. Richhart, young New York business executive; Dr. Marion Barnes, instructor of chemistry at Columbia University; Rev. Robert O. Franklin, the American Bible Society's representative in Thailand; Rev. Donald MacDonald, pastor of the Belle-rose Baptist Church, and Mr. Gerald Stuckey, ministerial student at the Biblical Seminary.

The Book for the World of Tomorrow

by Rome A. Betts

FOR some time it has been the hope of the American Bible Society that it could avail itself of that powerful medium for visual entertainment and instruction—the motion picture. But, the making of good films is a costly process, and the officers have felt that funds for this should not be taken from gifts given for the one purpose of translating, publishing, and distributing the Scriptures, since the present need is so great and to meet this need was the sole reason for creating the Society in 1816.

No one can measure, however, the good that can be done by motion pictures dramatically portraying to people all over our country the vital part which the Bible has played, is playing, and will continue to play, in molding men's lives and shaping the destinies of nations.

It was with this thought in mind that the Society first approached the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company for assistance in undertaking so important a project. Its hopes were based upon the fact that the exhibit of this great corporation at the New York World's Fair included one of the most thought-provoking features to be found in the whole vast exposition. It is called the Time Capsule. Far more than a mere publicity project, it was a serious effort of an organization which has for years pioneered in engineering and research, to render yet another important service in the field of scientific progress.

The capsule is an 800-pound torpedo-shaped shell made of a special alloy, which is highly resistant to corrosion—a product of Westinghouse research in the field of metals with special characteristics. The Time Capsule was buried for the inhabitants of the earth in the year 6939, so that they may learn something of our twentieth-century civilization. A book of record describing the Time Capsule and its contents was prepared, and three thousand six hundred and fifty copies have been sent to all the leading libraries and museums of the world, and to such other places as give promise of permanence. The book



A Chinese family reads the Book. China is becoming one of the greatest Bible-reading nations of the world

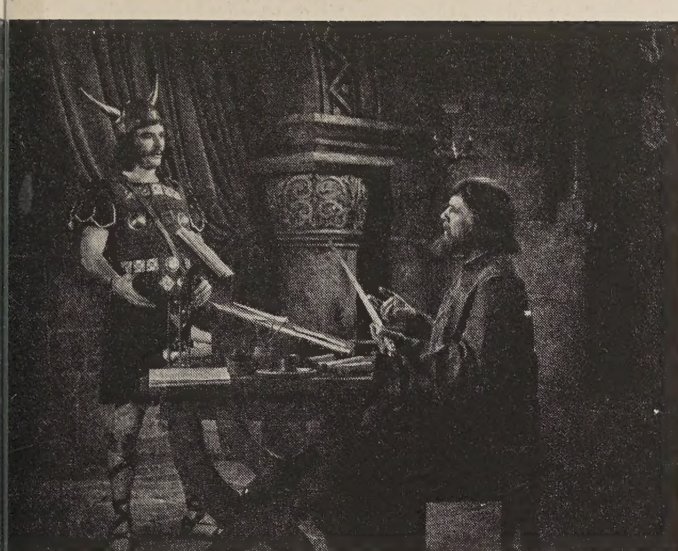
Every Church in America



Studying the early Biblical Era. Those Christians

In sixteenth-century England Bibles were so valuable that they were chained to the pillars and pulpits of the churches





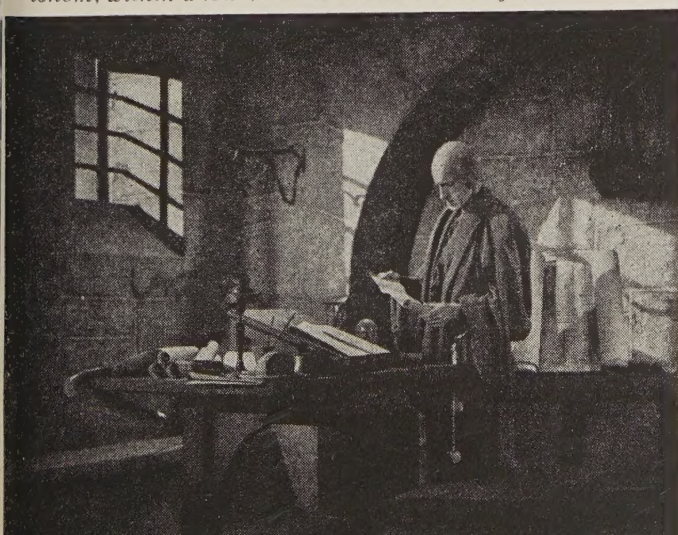
Ulfric gives the Scriptures to the Goths. The influence of the Bible made Christians of the barbarians, and saved Europe



St. Jerome writing his Vulgate translation. He worked in Bethlehem, within a few yards of the spot where Jesus was born

Should See This Film

St. Jerome writing his Vulgate translation. He worked in Bethlehem, within a few yards of the spot where Jesus was born



includes minute instructions which will enable the inhabitants of the earth 5,000 years from now to find, by surveying and other methods, the spot where the capsule is buried, no matter how the Atlantic seaboard may have changed.

The contents of the Time Capsule are, of course, designed to give the people of the year 6939 some idea of the kind of life we are living in the United States of America today. Many articles in common use are included, such as newspapers and magazines, sports equipment, scientific and engineering data, pictures, specimens of metals, and other materials. All the printed matter, of which there are approximately 10,000,000 words, is reproduced in miniature form on microfilm—all but the Book of Record and one other book—the Bible.

When the committee of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company selecting the contents of the Time Capsule was asked why the Bible was thus singled out, this was the reply:

"It may be said that a major reason was the belief . . . that the Holy Bible, of all books familiar to us today, will most likely survive throughout the ages. Therefore, the Bible which we placed in the Time Capsule will be a sort of connecting link between the past, present, and future."

The Bible is the world's most widely translated, published, and distributed book. It has no other competitor.

HOW TO BOOK THE FILM

ALL bookings of the picture will be financed by a free-will offering from the exhibitor. (A booking covers a seven-day period, and several showings can be made during that time.) Any amount in excess of \$10 will go to furthering the Society's distribution of the Scriptures. Any sum large or small will be accepted; but it is hoped that a minimum of \$10 will be provided, since that amount will be held as a separate item to underwrite the cost of making prints, promotional expenses, and a small sum with which to create a revolving fund for the making of pictures of a similar high quality. In the event that your church does not own a 16mm sound projector, you may be able to borrow or rent one from the schools, the Y. M. C. A. or a local photographic supply firm in your community.

Please address inquiries to the Visual Education Dept., Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th Street, New York, N. Y.

Prisoners of War Testify

FOR almost three years now it has been the privilege of the American Bible Society to distribute the Scriptures to men in prison camps and refugees in Germany, Italy, France, India, South Africa, Egypt, the West Indies, Canada, and the United States. To December 31, 1942, the total of these volumes was 463,694, and they were distributed in 32 different languages. The reports from this service are most gratifying. The following paragraphs are taken from these reports:

From a Jamaica internment camp came a request for English and German Bibles, and, in addition, this rather amazing assortment of Gospels: 4 Russian, 2 Swedish, 2 French, 2 Italian, 2 Spanish, 2 Portuguese, 1 Greek, 1 Dutch, 3 Lithuanian, 3 Arabian. The American Bible Society was surprised at the international character of the request; but, true to its pledge that no man who asks for the Scriptures in his own tongue is to be denied, the books were sent. They could not resist an inquiry as to the nationality of the majority of the internees. In answer came a letter from a man whose name as a medical missionary is well known: The majority of the people in the camp were German civil internees from West Africa—mostly plantation folk, evangelical and Catholic missionaries, and German merchant seamen. There were some Italians. They had evolved the plan of ministering at once to their needs for mental and spiritual stimulation, by taking up the study of the Gospels in various languages. Each man was studying the familiar Gospels in a tongue that was new to him. Interest in the project was spreading, and they would also welcome Gospels in Ukrainian, White Russian, Latvian, and Polish.

Last Easter, the Protestants of Paris gathered 500 Bibles—all those of middle-sized format and in good condition that the parishioners could spare—to be sent to the prisoners of war in Germany. Proper arrangements were made, and in due time the books were delivered. In reply came

amazing news. Not only had the Bibles been gratefully received and appreciated, but in two of the camps the prisoners had voluntarily taken up a collection, which amounted to several thousand francs, which sum they urgently requested to be used for the printing of Scriptures for their fellow prisoners.

In a letter from Nimes, France, before the final occupation, came this expression of gratitude for Bibles shipped to French Protestants by the American Bible Society:

It is nearly impossible in present circumstances to get Bibles in the nonoccupied zone. The Synodal Bible, published in Paris by the Société Biblique de France, is almost out of print, and the specimens that are left are reserved to the need of the occupied zone.

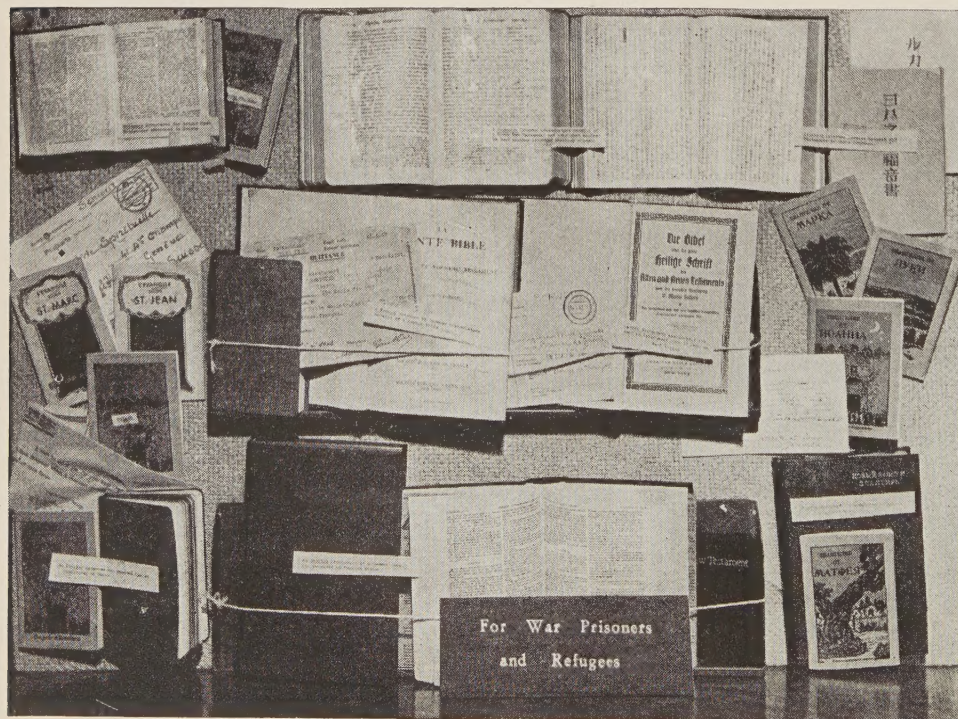
Were there those who just wouldn't be satisfied with Mein Kampf?

The following are excerpts taken from the acknowledgment cards received by M. Olivier Béguin, the American Bible Society's special representative in Geneva, Switzerland, from whose office packages of Scriptures are constantly moving through the barbed wire barriers into the German prison camps.

From an elderly Jewish-Christian internee (German):—

So I am chief of this barrack, and unfortunately I must often be severe with this horde of people. Often a sense of humor comes to my help, and something else besides. In the evening, when all are abed, I read aloud a passage of Scripture and the verse of a hymn. I am collecting passages from the Psalms, Job, the story of the Babylonian captivity, but also comforting truths from the Gospels and the Epistles.

The Bibles sent by the Ecumenical Committee and all the many books were brought by Camp Pastor Cadier, so



SCRIPTURES FOR WAR SUFFERERS

Top row — Malagasy, Greek, Japanese (for relocation centers in the U. S.)

Middle row — Polish, French, German, and Russian

Bottom row — Italian, English, Russian

MARCH 1943

that we can now open up an evangelical library. Lively interest is evident in the Bibles . . . We have now become a single community among ourselves and with those outside. We all belong to the Universal Christian Church. Many an unbeliever has come to me, begging to be given a Bible. The work for both souls and bodies must and will continue.

The many parcels of books are all here and working overtime. In addition to my chaplaincy at this camp, I visit a large work camp once every month. Holy Week was a real inspiration. Meetings every day, and three-hour devotions on Good Friday with about 400 men in attendance. Easter Sunday, full choral communion with 370 communicants. Another choral communion in the hospital, and also later in the work camps outside. Every Thursday evening lectures on history and philosophy of religion, with about 120 attending.

Your work is a great work, the greatness of which I cannot express in this short card. Please pray for us all; we need your prayers.

At first, a notice in each barrack brought together 88 Protestants. We were given the use of a room in the hospital three times a week for Bible study; then the room was closed to us, and we found our Bible-study class in the street. We experienced some difficult moments, since autumn was already there, enduring wind and rain; but we held on nevertheless, and then we prayed. Thereupon, one fine day, we were offered a room.

The letter goes on, referring to the schedule of Bible studies each day both in the Old and New Testaments; the conferences on the origin, manuscripts, and translations of the Bible, which were a great success, and which were repeated in other barracks.

From an Italian prison camp in the Sudan:—

The prisoners flocked round me for them, and some literally tried to tug them out of my hands. They were unspeakably glad of the books. . . . The wounded showed real joy in receiving them.

• • •

Ready for the Worst

*An interview with Frank H. Mann,
General Secretary of the American Bible Society*

“**W**HAT is this weighted package in a bowl of water? A strange sight on the desk of the General Secretary!”

Mr. Mann smiled, “If you’ll come back in an hour, I will let you into the mystery.”

An hour later I was there, and was given the privilege of assisting in opening the submerged envelope. It contained a New Testament, which Mr. Mann had placed in the water forty-five hours earlier.

“And what does all this mean?” I asked. This was the story:

A few months ago, the American Bible Society had added to its list of specially bound volumes for the various types of military service, a book bearing the insignia of the Merchant Marine. In addition to the text of the New Testament and other helps to Bible reading, the book bore on the flyleaf a message from Admiral Land, chairman of the United States Maritime Commission.

Because the Merchant Marine is not a part of the nation’s military organization, the program of distributing these books presented special problems. There are no chaplains, except at one or two training centers, and no central organization through which the books might be carried to the men.

“Then I learned,” said Mr. Mann, “that in Great Britain a way had been found not only to put these New Testaments into the hands of every seaman on the ships, but that copies had also been included in the equipment for lifeboats and rafts. So I

began to investigate further. I got in touch with Admiral Land’s office, with the result that in only a day or two I received a letter from the War Shipping Administration, accepting our offer to supply one of these books for every raft and lifeboat—a total of about 20,000 Testaments.”

Then came my question about the packaging. At this point Mr. Mann handed me the envelope from which I had extracted the bone-dry Testament.

“Examine this,” he said. Although the envelope appeared on the outside to be made of stout oilpaper, its lining had the appearance of metal. He explained to me that lead foil and cellophane had been integrated with paper, until it was practically one sheet of material; and that this material is being used successfully in waterproofing packaged rations carried on the lifeboats and rafts.

“How is it sealed?” I asked. Mr. Mann explained that, by fitting two sheets of this paper with the metal faces together, it could be simply sealed with the mild pressure of a hot iron along the edge.

“I am ordering just today 20,000 of these in the proper size to package our Testaments. They will be delivered to the Bible House unsealed on one side for the insertion of the books.”

“Have you any orders from the vessels?”

“To date we have orders for the complete equipping of more than 1,000 ships, totaling about 8,790 Testaments.”

“How did you get these orders so promptly?”

"The War Shipping Administration has moved very swiftly in this whole matter. To all the various companies operating under its jurisdiction a letter has been sent, requesting the company to submit its requirements. So far, these letters have been sent only to the ship companies on the East coast. They are now going out to those on the Pacific and Gulf coasts."

"Have you on hand the 20,000 Testaments which it is estimated will be needed?"

"That's a problem," the General Secretary replied. "As you know, we are always behind in the production of our military Testaments in their various bindings and with their various insignia. I have requested the printer to furnish these books as promptly as possible. Fortunately, I think we will have them on time, and we shall probably use the regular blue-covered Navy Testament."

"How did you hit upon this idea?"

"Well, I suppose the experience of Captain Rickenbacker had something to do with it. I fell to thinking: 'Suppose Corp. John Bartek, who was on Captain Rickenbacker's raft, had not happened to have his New Testament with him? It is evident from the testimony of all the men who shared that

terrible three weeks' exposure in the South Pacific, that Bartek's little book and its faithful use saved the lives of all who were finally rescued.' By this program, which is now so successfully launched, it will be assured that every group of men who may be forced to take to the lifeboats and the rafts of our merchant vessels, will be equipped with a usable copy of God's Word to uphold them and guide them in their extremity."

"And how much will 20,000 of these books plus the waterproof envelopes cost?"

"I estimate the books will cost about 17 cents each, including packaging, or about \$3,400."

"This is, of course, a charge against the Society's War Emergency Fund?"

"Yes; this fund of \$306,200 is designed to meet the many demands that have arisen because of the war, which are not provided for in the Society's regular budget. We are sure that the American people, who are so generously supporting our nation's war effort, will not forget the American Bible Society and the service it is rendering to the men in the armed forces of our nation in these days of perilous defense of our freedom and our faith."

• • •

Items of Interest

Read It Through

TO encourage those who have never read the entire Bible, we pass on the following poem by Amos R. Wells:

I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis;
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms (the twenty-third),
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs,
Yes, I thought I knew the Word.
But I found a thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.

You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble here and there,
Just before you kneel weary
And yawn out a hurried prayer;
You who treat the Crown of Writing
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look—

Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view,—
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through.

• •

Luba-Lulua Bibles Arrive

WORD was recently received from the secretary of the American Presbyterian Congo Mission that the first parcel post shipment of 240 Luba-Lulua Bibles (see BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD article of March 1942, page 38) had arrived in good condition; and that an additional 240 copies sent by freight had also arrived. Approximately 1,300 additional Bibles and 1,725 New Testaments went forward last September.

Glimpses from Deep in Europe

ON January 6, the first news from Bulgaria in more than a year reached the Bible House. It stated that George Popoff, the Society's agent there, and his wife are well. His wife is teaching, and he is looking for some work, as the store is closed, and no remittances can be made to him from New York. In April, sales were discontinued, pending decision as

to whether his stocks were to be seized as enemy alien property; but four months later he was informed that he could resume selling. The stocks are low, except for one style of pocket Bible and one edition of the New Testament.

A recent report from Secretary Temple, of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, states that the Vienna Bible depot is still open and selling Scriptures; although the authorities have tried again and again to close the depot. The personnel are not suffering from lack of food. The whole stock of Bibles from Berlin has been brought to Vienna.

• •

Scattering the Bible

A PATIENT in the American hospital in Turkey was given a Bible, and carried it home to his Armenian village, proud of owning it. But a Moslem mullah snatched it from him, tore it in pieces, and flung it into the street, where it lay until a grocer picked up the pieces to use as wrapping paper. Soon these were scattered all over the village as wrapping

for cheese, olives, and other purchases. It was not long before customers began to ask the grocer if he had any more such wrapping paper.

One day a Bible colporteur was making his rounds through Turkish provinces, and was amazed to find one hundred persons eager to buy Bibles, although no Christian teacher had ever been at work in that village.

• •

A Report from the West Indies

THE Society's West Indies Agency is responsible for Scripture distribution in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Virgin Islands, and the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. In wartime these islands have always assumed importance as a chain of sentinels guarding the Americas and the Panama Canal. Never more so than in 1942. Secretary Innes has submitted his report for the year, which, under the circumstances, is remarkable. Compared to the year previous, the figures are:

	<i>Bibles</i>	<i>Testaments</i>	<i>Portions</i>	<i>Total</i>
1942 -	9,682	12,332	100,323	122,337
1941 -	10,410	13,000	108,732	132,142

This is the more remarkable an accomplishment inasmuch as only half the appropriation for Scriptures reached the field during 1942. By December 11, the Agency was practically out of Spanish Scriptures at its three main centers—Havana, Cuba; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic.

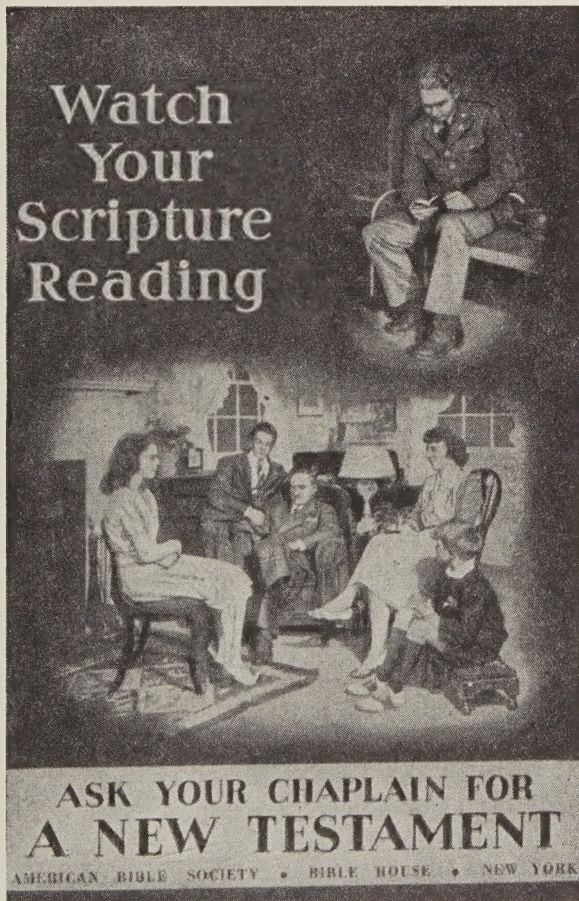
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Other Latin American Countries

CIRCULATIONS can also be reported for several other Latin American countries:

	<i>Bibles</i>	<i>Testaments</i>	<i>Portions</i>	<i>Total</i>
Peru	3,528	4,376	34,293	42,197
Ecuador	709	1,462	16,631	18,802
Central America	7,362	7,924	50,131	65,417
Colombia	1,075	1,938	41,581	44,594
Venezuela	1,220	1,440	22,500	25,160
Neth. W. I.	631	—	1,000	1,631
Argentina	7,595	11,451	107,818	126,864
Paraguay	813	838	4,710	6,361
Uruguay	462	216	4,926	5,604

The circulation in almost all areas is slightly increased, but would have been very much more had the conditions of maritime freight permitted the delivery of the needed books. From point after point came reports of exhaustion of stock. Argentina showed the most marked increases of 2,000 Bibles and 3,800 Testaments.



This poster is being furnished to chaplains of the Army and Navy to encourage Bible reading among their men



Editorial Comment



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary,
Bible House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York



Vol. 88 MARCH 1943 No. 3

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

SO great is the present interest in the Bible in our country, that the Blue Network has invited Secretary Stifler to speak each week for six months beginning on April 5. The hour will be 1:30 p.m. Eastern War Time. The next issue of the *RECORD* will carry the complete schedule of addresses with their titles, which will bear upon the changeless fact of the Bible in the changing world. The Blue Network consists of over 125 stations, located so as to cover every section of the country. Sustaining programs such as this series on the Bible are offered to all the stations, but are not always accepted and carried, being often supplanted by local commercial broadcasts. *RECORD* readers may interest their local stations in carrying Dr. Stifler's series by filing their requests.

FRIENDS of General Secretary Frederick W. Cropp now on leave to serve with our armed forces will be interested to know that he spent the month of January taking the intensive training course for chaplains at Harvard University. This followed almost a year of active chaplain duty at

Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and Fort MacPherson, Georgia.

JACK WILSON lives in a college town in eastern Pennsylvania. He is nineteen. He recently sent the Society ten dollars with which to furnish sixty New Testaments to enlisted men. Jack tried to enlist in the Navy last summer, but was rejected. He then applied to the Army Medical Corps, but the doctors told him he would be placed in 4F. Both these disappointments were due to a trouble that developed in Jack's left leg when he was eleven years old.

In December 1941 Jack was president of the Older Boys' Conference of Eastern Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school last summer, he got his first job, that paid 48c an hour. It was out of these first earnings that he sent his generous gift for Testaments for our boys. He now hopes to enter college and study bacteriology.

A BIBLE crusade was conducted in the city of Rochester, New York, during January, sponsored by the Federation of Churches, the Rochester Fellowship, the Church Council of Women, the Pastors' Union, the Christian associations, and other local groups in cooperation with the American Bible Society. The entire population was made aware of the significance of the Bible and of the need for more serious and wider reading of its pages. There were more than 125 speaking engagements, including 80 churches, 15 radio addresses, 15 appointments in schools of week-day religious education, and 11 special meetings, with a luncheon sponsored by thirteen prominent Rochester businessmen, who are planning a permanent organization for the city's Bible interests. During the first week of the crusade, the 250,000 weekly transportation passes purchased by citizens for riding in the buses carried an announcement of the crusade. Bookstores reported that sales of Bibles in January were doubled.

IN the February BIBLE SOCIETY *RECORD* appeared a little picture story of distribution of Testaments to seamen of the Royal Navy, who came to Washington on shore leave. Dr. W. L. Darby, president of the Washington Bible Society, writes of the continuation of this program at regular intervals, including occasionally the shipment of books to the ports where British sailors are stationed. Several hundred Testaments have now been presented to British sailors.

Chaplain G. W. Dixon of the Royal Navy writes to Dr. Darby, from the Norfolk Navy Yard:

The Testaments have just arrived. Many thanks for them. I will place them with discrimination, and, under God's good guidance, they will bring a blessing to those who receive them.

It really is kind of you to send them to us, and I appreciate it very much.

The British and Foreign Bible Society at home does a grand work, and I suppose your work here is very similar.

These little Bibles will be a link between your boys and ours, and I hope and pray they will unite us in a true bond of fellowship one with another.

May God bless you in your great work.

January Meeting of the Board

THE ninth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-seventh year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, January 7, 1943, at 3:30 p.m., Vice President William Jay Schieffelin in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Graham Stewart.

The minutes of the eighth stated meeting of the year were approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

Mrs. Rebecca H. Barker was made a Memorial Member.

It was reported that the issues from the Bible House, New York, during the year 1942, totaled 8,230,865 volumes, as compared with 6,585,280 volumes during the year 1941.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Rev. Henry H. Ragatz, 650 Seventeenth Street, Denver, Colo.
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Rev. R. W. Bayless, D.D., 224 McAllister St., San Francisco, Cal.

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Rev. J. S. N. Tross, Ph.D., D.D., 329 S. Brevard St., Charlotte, N. C.

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Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
Dallas—Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas
Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas, Texas.

Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

New York City—Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St., New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.
Atlanta, Georgia—85 Walton St., No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Mississippi.
Chicago, Illinois—35 E. Wacker Drive, Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan.
Dallas, Texas—1914 Main St., Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico.
San Francisco, California—224 McAllister St., Wash., Ore., Calif., Nevada, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Alaska, Hawaii.

Foreign Agencies

West Indies—Rev. James Innes, Neptuno 629, Havana, Cuba.
Mexico—Sr. H. T. Marroquin, Apartado 1373, Mexico City.
Caribbean—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone.
Upper Andes—John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru.
La Plata—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Corrientes 728, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

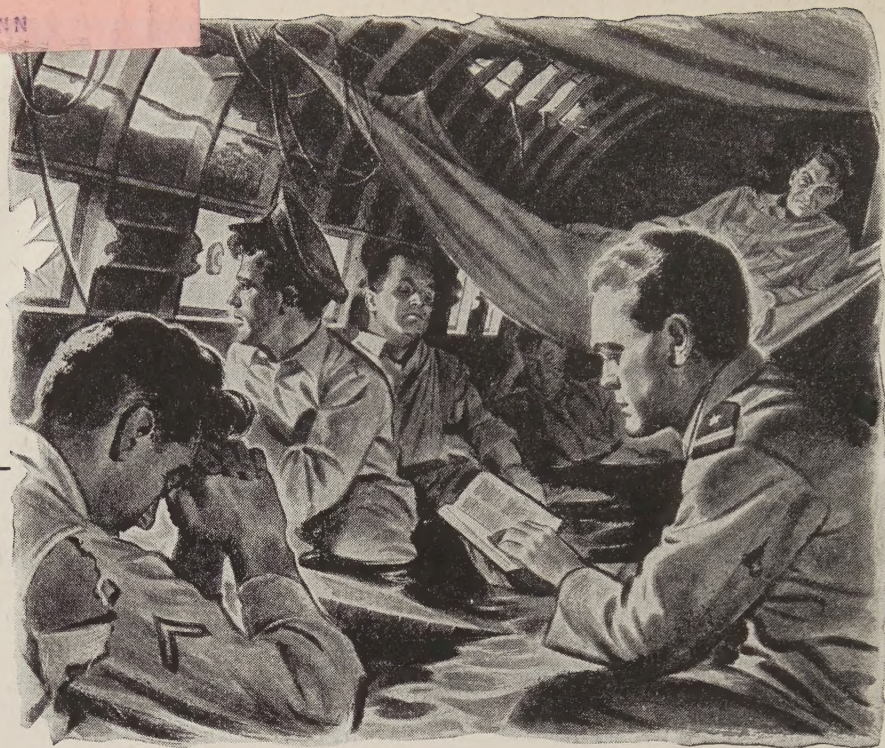
Brazil—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12, Rio de Janeiro.
Bible Lands Agency, North—C. S. Bell, Box 747, Beirut, Syria.
Bible Lands Agency, South—Mr. H. Athanasian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.

Philippines—Rev. W. H. Fonger, Box 755, Bible House, No. 636 Isaac Peral, Manila.
Thailand (Siam)—Rev. Robert O. Franklin (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok.
China—Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, M.A., Bible House, 58 Hongkong Road, Shanghai.
Japan Bible Society—Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan.

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New Hampshire—Edward A. Dame, 24 Warren St., Concord.
Vermont—Rev. Hugh J. Williams, Ph.D., 189 South Winooski Ave., Burlington.
Massachusetts—Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston.

Connecticut—Rev. S. W. Raymond, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford.
Rhode Island—Rev. Selden R. McCurdy, D.D., 144 Westminster St., Providence.
Maryland—Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore.



"We Cry unto Thee for Help"

SEVENTEEN sick and wounded, and a crew of six, in an army transport plane, crash-landed on a coral reef, the water waist-high in the shattered cabin. For four days, in thirst, hunger, and pain, they waited for a rescue that might never come. On the fifth long day of waiting, a nineteen-year-old boy, sick with malaria and with wounds in his side and back, remembered it was Sunday. Church services were being held back home. There in the lone Pacific, they too held service. "O most powerful and glorious Lord God," they prayed, "we cry unto thee for help." Before another Sunday, help did come.

You may not be able to shoulder a gun. *You* may not have to share with our boys the terrible hardships of battle. But there is one thing *you can* do.

You can see to it that, through the American Bible Society, the Word of God is made available to our armed forces wherever they are, so that sometime, somewhere in the jungle or desert, those boys of ours—facing the supreme test of their courage—may find comfort, strength, and perhaps deliverance.

And for the future—remember, when you buy an American Bible Society Annuity Agreement, you not only help further the work of distributing Bibles and New Testaments to the young men of all races and of all lands in years to come, but at the same time, you receive as high as seven percent returns for your money. Do not fail! Investigate this Plan at once. Send for the booklet "A Gift That Lives."

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